

**Agenda Item 2b**

# **Memorandum**

**Date:** March 26, 1998

**To:** CALFED Policy Group

**From:** Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

**Subject:** CALFED Program Schedule: Work Activities/Resource Commitments

**Summary of Agenda Item:**

This item outlines the work effort proposed by Program staff to address the set of issues which were identified in the Phase II Interim Report.

**Background:**

With the release of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, we will now focus Program effort in three key areas:

1. Listening and responding to public comments in preparation for selecting a final alternative and drafting a Final EIR/S;
2. Building the assurances/staging elements into a credible Implementation Plan which will hold Program efforts together during Phase III; and
3. Addressing the issues described in the Phase II Interim Report and refining the Program elements.

Over the past three years of Program development, many issues have been raised by both the CALFED agencies and the public relative to all aspects of the Program. On several occasions we have brought to the Management Team and the Policy Group a list of these issues. I have included a copy of the list of these key issues as they are outlined as part of Chapter 5 of the Phase II Interim Report (Attachment 1) and the diagram of the process we intend to apply to issue resolution (Attachment 2).

**CALFED Agencies**

**California**

- The Resources Agency
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Water Resources
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal**

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of the Interior
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Commerce
- National Marine Fisheries Service

In addition to those key issues included in Chapter 5, the Phase II Interim Report also includes a further set of concerns which were expressed about the Program components and described in the "sidebar" boxes of the Report. The Program effort through the remainder of Phase II will be directed at addressing these outstanding issues and concerns.

In order to effectively address all these issues and ensure the process of agency/stakeholder interaction, we have drafted a Workplan to guide Program effort over the next several months. Under any standard, we have a tremendous effort before us. It is critically important at this stage to fully identify work needed and to organize the Program, and identify CALFED resources to assist with, a work effort which will result in information necessary for decision making by this body and with full opportunity for agency input and public involvement. An outline of the proposed workplan with reference to the key issues and concerns to be addressed is included here as Attachment 3. A more detailed write-up of the workplan will be available at the meeting next Thursday.

However, in addition to the expressed issues and concerns included in the Report, the process of CALFED agency review of the Draft Phase II Interim Report brought to light several significant questions regarding basic Program policies and assumptions. We have brought forward three of these CALFED policy issues (time value of water, potential changes to operational restrictions if the ecosystem recovers, and commitment to the common pool) as part of Agenda Item 3 in this packet and look forward to discussing these at the April 2 meeting.

**Recommendations:**

1. Program staff recommends that the Policy Group concur that the attached workplan outline identifies the scope of the work effort necessary for the duration of Phase II; and
2. Program staff recommends that the Policy Group direct the Management Team to work with staff at the April Management Team meeting to review and help revise the workplan as necessary and to identify CALFED agency staff who will join in the effort of completing the significant work ahead of us.

Attachments